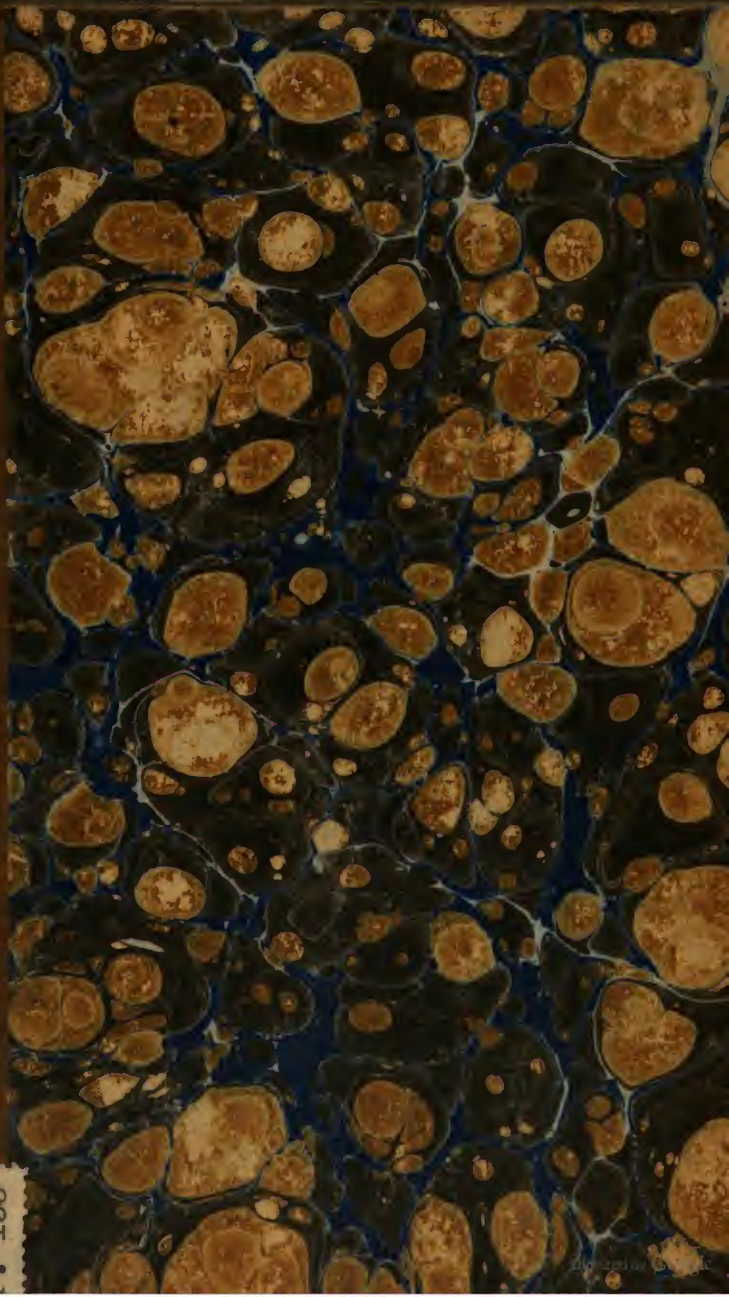
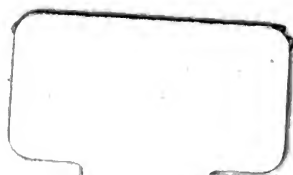


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THE
COLONIZATION
OF
NEW ZEALAND.

BY
PROFESSOR CHARLES RITTER,
OF BERLIN.



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Translated from the German.  
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LONDON:
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1842.

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P R E F A C E.

As recording the opinions entertained by a distinguished scientific foreigner, and reflected by him on the minds of his intelligent countrymen,—the great German nation,—on the no less interesting than important subject of the systematic Colonization of New Zealand, it has been thought, that a translation of Professor Ritter's recent Publication would not prove unacceptable to the British public.

The learned Professor passes in comprehensive review, the past and present circumstances, as also the future prospects of New Zealand; deducing from the latter nothing less than that, by a wise administration of its affairs, and right development of its vast natural resources, the "double island" may eventually become the Britain of the southern hemisphere. In this conception, conveying as it does, a tacit hope that such may prove in effect the crowning result, the enlightenment and philosophy of a purely philanthropic mind are manifested; nor is there surely a patriotic British bosom which will

not cordially respond to these generous aspirations for the reflection of Britain's greatness in this her latest, and most promising colonial offspring.

In the course of his remarks, Professor Ritter feelingly deplores the consequences of the neglect in which New Zealand had been left from the time of its discovery by Cook, until a recent period, when the attention of the British Government was only first awakened to a sense of its injustice towards the aborigines, by the example set to it in the work of moral and social improvement by a private company of benevolent enterprising individuals, animated by a sincere desire to carry out to their full extent the true principles of a humanizing colonization.

To the patriotic efforts of the **NEW ZEALAND COMPANY**, the Professor accords, indeed, the highest praise; more especially as regards the very liberal arrangements made by it for the welfare of the natives, by the gratuitous assignment, for their sole benefit in perpetuity, of one-tenth part of all its territory purchased from them. It will, doubtless, afford Professor Ritter pleasure to learn, that while this inadequate translation of his able discourse is passing through the press, accounts have been received from New Zealand, of the successful establishment of the Company's Second, or **NELSON SETTLEMENT**, at **TASMAN'S GULF**, on the Southern Shore of Cook's Strait; thus fully bearing out his own and other testimony to the fact of the highly-favoured districts bordering the respective sides of that strait, being those to which settlers would naturally resort

in preference, as destined to become, in effect, the true emporium of the colony's future greatness.

As an indication of the watchful interest excited on the Continent, by the progress of British Colonization, Professor Ritter's Pamphlet can scarcely fail to create attention in this country, or to produce a salutary effect upon our colonizing operations; by proving that they are subject to the searching scrutiny of foreign contemporaries to whose opinion weight attaches, and who will be ready to hold them up to general approval or condemnation, according to the evidences of their merits.

THE TRANSLATOR.

London, April, 1842.

PROFESSOR RITTER

ON

NEW ZEALAND.

THE Colonization of New Zealand, through the medium of the New-Zealand-Company, formed in England, and especially in London, during my brief residence there, a short time since, a prominent topic of general conversation. I visited the New-Zealand House, situated in the heart of the City, within the walls of which building, a rich store of knowledge, relative to that cardinal point of the earth's compass, was revealed to my attention, and where, at the same time, as a diligent observer, I was brought into communication with many of those who, up to this period, had been leading men in promoting the colonizing proceedings.

The first difficulties of the undertaking—the greatest impediments which the Colonization had until recently experienced, from the opposition of the Colonial Authorities and the Legislature, because the British Crown had as yet been undecided with reference to the mode of taking actual possession of the double

Island,—were now triumphantly surmounted. The Crown had proclaimed the Act of Sovereignty over New Zealand: the substance of Parliamentary discussions and investigations of the affairs of the colonization had been printed and published on the public account: the public voice had unequivocally pronounced in favour of the continuance of the Company's proceedings, and this was now assured by the participation in the enterprize, of members of some of the most noted families, and of the first mercantile houses in the kingdom.

The annually increasing want of a steady emigration from the European British Isles to distant colonies, had now, in fact, resolved itself, in the minds of this great sea-faring nation of twenty millions of men, into a matter of the most urgent necessity. Nor was it difficult to understand that a fruitful double-island, hitherto entirely unappropriated, of the size of England, and numbering at the most a native population of 100,000 souls,—being scarcely twenty-five individuals to the German square mile,*—must serve as a wide field of industry and development for British subjects, crowded together in their own country in the closest contiguity, in the proportion of 4,500 and upwards to a similar square mile. The nobler part of the British nation yielded the full measure of its assent to the new, humane system of colonization, differing entirely from all former systems, which was now for the first time adopted. The astonishment of the observer could not but be excited at the restless activity displayed by a private Colonization Association; at the great amount of land purchased in New Zealand through the medium of its agents; at the

* The German geographical mile is equivalent, to 4.60 English miles.—*Translator.*

rapid afflux to that distant region, of numerous emigrants of all classes of the British population—the rich and the poor alike! Yet, without the assistance of the Government,—nay, without its sanction,—the operations of the Colonizing Company, though not quite two years had elapsed since its formation, had been of so vigorous a nature, that already, possessed of a capital of 100,000*l.*, it had effected the purchase of twenty millions of English acres, (1 acre = 1.5846 Prussian acres: 13744 acres = 1 German square mile,) or 1,454 German square miles* of territory in New Zealand, equivalent to nearly one-third part of the entire Island. Already had about twenty-four emigrant ships been despatched with 7000 settlers, comprising individuals more or less wealthy, the whole of whom were conveyed to, and landed at their destination, free of any expense to themselves! Already had the foundations been laid of three not unimportant harbour-cities; while in the port of that intended as the future metropolis of the Island, and designated *Wellington*, (a name replete with interesting associations to every Briton,) no less than 110 ships of various tonnage had entered during the first year, laden with all necessaries for supplying the wants of the settlers, and these vessels have been followed by hundreds more. Down to the middle of last summer, the cost of the dwelling-houses erected at Wellington had operated the local circulation of a capital of 18,000*l.*, and the value of the goods and stores in depôt was estimated at 200,000*l.*! The steady progressive development of the extensive enterprise to which, besides London, towns such as Plymouth, Glasgow, and other places, had zealously attached themselves, was now readily to be anticipated.

* See note *ante*.

Such a feature of the power of colonization which, from its necessity, now embraces all zones, seas, and the extreme ends of the earth—nay, the whole globe itself—was obviously only practicable in our days, when the ocean is made the subservient means of promoting its animating impulse. Spiritual interests must follow in the train of those of a physical kind; and what was formerly considered merely possible, may now actually be effected. The wild ungovernable powers of nature, controlled and rendered subject by mind-accompanying power, must now become, in lieu of opponents, serviceable auxiliaries and assistants of the human race; in proportion as the opposing elements of time and space are overcome, their contraction must lead to unlooked for beneficial relations; and, succumbing to new combinations, they must serve to entwine more and more the natural and the physical creation in a close mutual connexion.

The mere contemplation of such events developing themselves before our eyes, in their earlier stages, were, in truth, of itself, instructive. It would be still more so as regards futurity; for, within perchance the compass of a century, may arise from that double-island of New Zealand, in the midst of the fertile shores of the Austral Ocean, a young renovated Albion of the antipodean world. The object becomes thus not unimportant to every well-wisher to the human race. Readily will he conceive the realization, who calls to mind the various historic phenomena of this kind wherein, within the smallest germ lay hidden, or lies hid, the whole eventual fruit; as in the instance of the British Indian Empire; of the giant stem of the United States of North America; or of the yet scarcely scattered seed in Algeria—in the Caucasus, and in the Mohammedan East, which the

future is destined to mature. Here, in truth, is the time to measure, in order fully to enter into such considerations. In the midst of our so quiet, happy, firm-rooted land, few indications are permitted us regarding the affairs of a stormy agitated ocean, and its yet half-savage islanders, who lie from us even still more remote than from the first sea-navigating nations of our section of the earth. Nevertheless, sailing vessels from our ports have already traversed the ocean washing those far distant shores, for in our days the sea raises up no exclusive barriers. And besides, are not those islands inhabited by our fellow-men—nay, already by Christian brethren? That which externally reveals itself always operates back again eventually within. Let us not, therefore, overlook the coherence of things in the infinite, which is ever reflected again in minuteness and speciality, because it always again becomes revealed to us anew, for our own welfare in nature, as in human history.

To these considerations must be superadded the prospect of a special participation, lately opened to us in a popular way, so far as concerns those regions of the antipodes, by means of the proposal of our Hanseatic countrymen to found a settlement for German emigrants on the group of Chatham Islands,* which form an appendage to the northern section of the neighbouring islands of New Zealand; and on such a settlement the history of the development of the New Zealand Colonization, would in every sense exercise the most beneficial influence.

The position of the antipodean island of New Zea-

* A Pamphlet on this subject, under the title of "Auswanderungen und Colonisation, und die Chatham-Inseln, von J. C. Beit," has just been published at Hamburg, by Messrs. Perthes, Besser, and Mauke, Booksellers, of that City.—*Translator.*

land, is immediately under our feet, on the opposite side of the globe. Its fast-anchored land and mountain mass rises majestically from amidst that unbounded ever-agitated world of waters, and varies from ranges of richly wooded highlands to isolated, bold, conic, snow-covered mountains. It is distant thousands of nautical miles from each of the known sections of the earth, which belt almost cohesively, or as a continental circle, that ocean space; hence, it is encompassed on the outward ring of such circle, by the richest and most varied coast-land.—Even the thousand scattered islets as well as the thickly-crowded island-groups of the South-sea, stretching from east to west like a milky way of glittering stars, through the deep-blue sea, but firmly rooted to its base by volcanic power, remain respectfully, the remotest among all the islands behind New Zealand; as though the shape of the large double island had restricted the formation of the smaller ones in their approach towards the same. New Zealand takes root at the southern end of the long-drawn island chain in wild volcanic-ranges, as our great geologist has termed them, which, belting Eastern Asia and the Continent of Australia to the extent of 1,000 miles from north to south, stand as their coast attendants imbedded in the deep, and as their last joint southern members. After many volcanic and marine struggles, the monuments of which are inwardly retained within it, in the shape of craters, pumice-stone, hot-springs, and other evidences, the double-island now seems with its many-peaked, mighty elevations, to have sunk to rest in the full repose of nature.*—The historic nature of its peace, has not yet been unravelled; but the portal of the theatre

* This, however, is not yet clearly ascertained.—*Translator.*

where the scene has been enacted, is now thrown open to the necessary champion. Its animal world, no less than its richly endowed vegetable kingdom, bears in truth an Idyllic character; containing no beasts of prey, nor any of the larger quadrupeds, nor sheltering any venomous or dangerous reptiles.

But uncultured man, its inhabitant, was until lately, a wild beast of prey; while the present savage of the soil is still engaged with his race in perpetuating mutual feuds. His rude licentiousness struggling with civilization, is however partially restrained, and the European world of culture begins to exercise thereon a salutary influence.

The seclusion of New Zealand from all other sister-islands, whereof the far greater part are in a state of less development; nay, the oceanic unity of this double-island, is in strict unison with its size, its bounteous endowments, its intrinsic qualities, its self-sufficing powers. It could itself amply suffice to provide a natural abundance, and an organization of property for its own population; and could be summoned, unlike any other of the Australian sister-islands, to become hereafter the fruitful mother of an extended civilized race. Its nearest continental neighbour, Australia, (New Holland,) with the convict settlement of New South Wales, is distant from it 1,200 nautical miles, and can only be reached on the average, in ten or fourteen days; while during the prevailing westerly wind, which is adverse, the passage may be extended to three or four weeks, or more.

The two extraordinary harbour-rich islands which constitute New Zealand, do not lie, as England and Ireland, breastwise, but lap over one another. A channel four or five (German) miles broad, called Cook's Strait, from the name of its discoverer, divides the two, or

rather unites them in the highest sense ; for to this favoured country is given an advantage denied to the American Continent, at the Isthmus of Panama ; namely, a navigable thoroughfare of the most superior kind, binding the east with the west, in the shortest possible way. Forasmuch as throughout the extent of this Strait, of fifteen or twenty German miles,* the greatest number of good anchoring grounds, and roomy harbours are to be found, between its jutting headlands, surrounded too by districts of the most fertile character ; so consequently has it been foreseen that in the midst of this great highway, the pulsating heart and arteries must be sought, which are destined henceforward to diffuse historic life through the entire social organization and political system of this insular group ; since only from the maritime side, from the coast hitherwards, can modern cultivation here commence its upward growth. Here, then, during the past year, the foundation-stone of Wellington, the future capital of the island-state, was laid. The surface of the two islands, neither quite 4,000 German square miles,* is about equivalent to that of England and Scotland conjointly ; their extreme length of 200 German miles from north to south, would, if measured on the soil of Europe, be about co-equal with the known distance from Munich to the outward southern point of Italy. Likewise, the climatrical position ($34\frac{1}{2}$ — $47^{\circ} 10'$. South lat.) would be equally analogous to that of this district, excepting only, that New Zealand lies in the middle of the ocean, the moisture of which tempers, as is known, both heat and cold. But the breadth of New Zealand surpasses that of the Italian peninsula from east to west, mostly in a twofold, fre-

* See note, *ante*, p. 8.

quently in a threefold degree. The theatre were therefore large enough in itself for the seat of the future dominion of a naval power—for a Britannia of the Southern hemisphere : larger in fact in space than the Italian central-seat of the *Imperium Romanum* in the middle of the *Orbis terrarum* of the Roman times, there also encircled by a far-extending territorial dominion.

But we have few colonizers sufficiently sanguine to dream amidst such remote conceptions. To the outward, the material elements, must the inward, the spiritual elements, approximate, in order to generate and to develop greatness around the compass of the earth's dimensions. The question is here only of the actually present and the recently past generations ; but the latter does not in truth offer us a bright vision of the country under consideration.

New Zealand is a section of the globe where Nature has indeed been bountiful, nay, lavish of her choicest gifts, in return for which, however, mankind has hitherto done nothing, beyond the country's first discovery, and the occurrences of the last year or two, or rather has abused those gifts in various ways. It stands yet in the childhood of its first discovery, and since the first expression of pleased astonishment at its rich constructure, no smiling look of the European discoverer has fallen back upon it,—not once was the flag of actual possession-taking raised upon its soil by the nation claiming its discovery. Its Son of Nature, the being endowed with vigorous, though untutored energies of mind and body—an Anthropophagus, was allowed to revert to cannibalism, without a redeeming effort, or the slightest benevolence of guardianship, on the part of those organized thereto ; who, on the contrary,

arrogating to themselves a wide superiority over him, often sought, in the most arbitrary, sometimes in the most reckless and revolting way, to dispose of his life and natural inheritance. No enterprizing character since Cook, the discoverer's, time (1769), has circumnavigated the 800 German miles of the island coast; no geologist, no botanist, no philanthropist, no one of the numerous tourists, whether of the investigative or merely inquisitive order, has penetrated into its interior, and it has consequently remained until lately, an unknown land, in the fullest meaning of the term. Since only the last ten years, since the teachers of the gospel in their triumphant extension into the wildernesses of the South Sea coasts, (as formerly into those of our own North Sea,) have also here penetrated the hearts of many of the most savage tribes, subdued their passions, and even preserved with these Cannibals a friendly intercourse; only since then have scattered paths been opened amid the wilds of their forest homes. Nor was this effected elsewhere than along the shores of the northern islands, or in the case of other natives than those by whom they were inhabited. Numbers remained unknown, and the greater part of the interior, covered with a dense primeval forest, proved inaccessible to the missionaries. These first endeavours to humanize the Aborigines of the northern island, were followed but too quickly, from the promulgation of the report of the rich provision of its natural productions, and other promising sources of profit and attraction, by the advent of speculators and adventurers. The thousands of ships of all seafaring nations in the world, which now annually plough the waters of the South Sea, the thousands which yearly resort to the neighbouring groups

of harbours of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land, as winter stations, in order to escape the ravages of the southern storms of the Antarctic hemisphere, before returning to their respective countries, or proceeding to the India and China seas to prosecute their traffic; all these supply vagabonds enough, whose well-being is in nowise cared for, and who, with reckless daring, are ever ready to throw themselves into the arms of chance and trust to fortune. On a territory such as that of New Zealand, where yet there was no observer of their irregular proceedings, where yet no law obtained, no kind of order existed,—where yet, in the depraved game of chance, the wide prospect of freebootery, of riches, nay even of wild dominion was held out to rapacity, because no sovereign power for the control of the whole had been called into existence; the intrusion of a class of persons of the character described was especially calculated to prove, as in effect it did, most baneful. The island resembled a ship whose crew, become their own destroyers, and which, whirled about at chance, devoid of pilot, must fall a prey to barbarians. Alured by the thirst of booty, the individuals mentioned could afford at first to be indifferent on the score of bodily food; since, for a long time past, the Aborigines have raised in such abundance from their fertile soil, the native or sweet potatoe, and more recently also, the transplanted European root, that this source of nourishment, viewed in conjunction with the numerous swine, whether wild or domesticated, abounding every where along the inhabited line of coast, left but little ground for apprehension on the score of food, on the part of the sailors who might resort thither. Further, as a second and inexhaustible source of food, the great fisheries in all the

rivers, creeks, and bays, lay always at their command; these shores being, for the most part, only temporarily inhabited by small groups of the wandering tribes of the Aborigines, who otherwise, never impede foreigners from benefiting by such gifts of nature. The numerous shoals of colossal sea-animals, the seal and the whale, driven since the last century from the northern seas, have found in the southern ocean a longer respite from the pursuit of man, and still swarm, occasionally in considerable numbers, about the southern shores of New Zealand, with their young around them. The rich profit which their chase affords has attracted yearly, since the last century, numerous ships from the greatest distances, into these waters, as also smaller vessels, from the vicinity, particularly New South Wales. Almost every bay and creek of the double-island, especially the southern one, has already been rendered a place of settlement by seal and whale fishermen of every maritime nation, both American and European, amongst whom the Australasians and the British form the principal, although there is no deficiency, either of Frenchmen, Norwegians, or German Hanseatics.

The service which the vigorous, extremely active, and intelligent natives afford to foreigners in such enterprizes, or in hewing down their own forest trees for export timber or local ship-building, constitutes, so to speak, their elementary school; wherein, until now, next to the missionary schools,—these in the north, the former mostly in the south,—has commenced the process of their assimilation to Europeans. In this wise, they have the opportunity of learning the use of the harpoon, the sail, the axe, the saw, of fire-arms, and of clothing. No one, however, would adduce such a rough mode of life, as an evidence of

the progress of culture, although a slight commencement of civilization; and still less if considered in conjunction with the admixture of the blood of the white and coloured people. For, the temporary residence of so many foreigners leads to temporary marriages with the native women, which are followed by the introduction of a race of hybrid children. Nevertheless, by the continuance of such settlements, and progressive affinity with the robust, well-formed, aboriginal race, there will spring up, provided only that some discipline be enforced, a posterity by no means ungraceful, which will not at least fall back to cannibalism. Were it not for the vicinity of the convict colony of New South Wales, —whence disreputable fugitives, mostly thieves and fraudulent insolvents, who, evading, on board the ships about to leave, the closest scrutiny of the so-called water-police, reach New Zealand, and there diffuse the worst vices of the Europeans amongst the natives,—the island would have only its own evils to contend with. But such a neighbourhood, where the bad run a more rapid career than the good, opens the whole box of Pandora, and inundates thence the whole New Zealand coasts, which, consequently, here and there, may well bear within them the germs of a Sodom and Gomorrah. The investigations contained in the Parliamentary reports of the mother country have served to open the eyes of all, in reference to this matter. The wild love of strife of the Aborigines, in whose untutored minds, revenge was still identical with the instinct of self-preservation, luckily served in some degree to curb the bold arrogance of European strangers, who, in their fleet vessels, could readily cast anchor in any bay of their selection. Only when assailed by European armed

superiority, numerously manned and gun-mounted ships, would the courageous native in his fragile canoe yield. Still, conflict after conflict not unfrequently ensued; these generally hotly contested, and often terminating in the bloody overthrow of whole families and tribes. Also, conflagrations then ravaged the dwelling-places of the natives, who, despite their courage, mostly succumbed to the effects of fire-arms. Nevertheless, this petty, desultory warfare could not materially extend itself, because the coasts are but thinly populated, and many of the bays contain but a small number of native residents. But almost every part of the coast has witnessed scenes of bloodshed of this description, and entire boats' crews of various nations been slain, many individuals among them being on such occasions devoured in pure cannibalism.

Far more frequently, however, than war has European subtlety overcome the rude force of the New Zealander, while avarice, and the thirst of gold, have not unsuccessfully extended their net over this double-island, whereby a new web of entanglement in its disordered garden has been operated. A no less infamous than numerous portion of the Australian speculators are notorious for their insatiable covetousness for land—a propensity in the pursuit of which, involving gain and gambling, they exercise in that thinly populated country, a most nefarious power. The general name they have acquired among the people is that of land-swallower, or land-shark (*Land-hayfische*). This passion it is which has fitted them for the misuse of the refined ascendancy they possess over a race of people yet in its minority. Many among them, partly individuals, partly associations, thirsting for great territorial acquisitions,

have well known how to take advantage of the want of any restraining authority hitherto, on the coasts of New Zealand, when excluded from the further prosecution of such transactions in the penal colonies, through the operation of the laws. During the last few years, ships carrying passengers and goods for this kind of traffic, were weekly seen leaving the Australian ports for the New Zealand shores, and thence returning with documents which such parties had themselves prepared as evidences of the purchases alleged to have been effected.

The individuals and the articles of barter sent, were of a character to obtain from ignorant chiefs, or heads of families of those erratic scanty tribes, who formed, first at one then another bay, their temporary settlements, cessions of valuable tracts of land, varying more or less in extent. Without knowing what he sold, without himself possessing the designated territory, the New Zealander eagerly grasped, in his crude anxiety, the proffered bales of stuffs, a red handkerchief, a gilt-bordered cap, a few iron nails and axes, a musket, or fowling-piece, with powder and shot; and promised in return to the trafficker the islands of the coast, or if he better pleased, the whole visible circuit of the coast, including forests and all other appurtenances. The white man thereupon transcribed a document, the meaning of which he alone understood, caused the native to affix to it his mark, by way of vouching for its authenticity, and his followers to testify thereto, so that hereafter he might be able to establish his alleged right of dominion, the descriptive limits of which he not unfrequently most absurdly falsified and extended. The bargain concluded, the native once more cast his fishing-tackle into the waters of another bay, planted

his potatoe beds for a speedy crop in the new but equally fertile soil, cut the leaves of the flax plant, which grows in wild abundance on the coast, and quickly raised anew his hut of reeds. On the other hand, the buyer, with his followers, imagining himself to be the lord of the soil, quickly commenced the task of hewing down the stately forest trees, in order to export the best timber at an extravagant rate, or to build ships upon the spot. He next proceeded to erect his wooden buildings whether for the purpose of a dwelling, a saw-mill, a train-oil store, for the whale fishery, or a magazine for his minor retail traffic, and invited others from the vicinity for the furtherance of his business. But at this second bay, the same chief meeting a new comer, quickly sold to him the self-same territory he had just before alienated to the previous party, without reflecting on a second, or perchance on a third recurrence on the frequency of the conveyance. Or, probably, a strange tribe thence wandering, blood-enemies of the first, and dispossessed by them of the mutually-claimed territory, had in their turn sold it to other speculators on similar terms. Hence disputes were generated amongst the land-jobbers, as none could prove a better title than the other, and no adjudication could be effected. As they usually lived in irregular matrimony with the native females, the tribes to which these belonged, ranged themselves on the different sides accordingly, and hence feuds and strife were engendered amongst these from quarrels not, in truth, their own. A murder which then not seldom happened, led to the surprise and destruction of one tribe or the other, and on such occasions, the white swindlers, the originators of the mischief, were not always fortunate enough to escape the danger, by fleeing to their

boats. But the survivors and conquerors have not the less become, whether by their bloody deeds, or by their subtlety, the great landed proprietors, the powerful whites, in the country of the coloured Aborigines, with whose chiefs they the more readily ally themselves, in order to be thereby the better able to maintain their supremacy. Very many of these are the explorers of the local cultivation: they are the founders of extensive plantations; of the timber trade; of large fishing establishments, of whaling expeditions, and of numerous train-oil stores. They have already spread themselves along almost all the coasts of the double-island, and preferred claims of dominion to a wide extent of surrounding territory. Countless acts of this kind are under the cognizance of the authorities at Sydney, and have transpired through the Council of Colonial Legislation in New South Wales, charged, though only lately, with the investigation of claims to territorial possessions. Very many, indeed most of the petty wars which have always more or less prevailed amongst such wandering tribes of Aborigines, have mainly originated in recent times from this cause, and by its effects, the numbers of the tribes must continually go on diminishing. They must, at the same time, become expelled, as every where else where civilization establishes itself among savages, by the weight of spiritual preponderance, from their productive coast-lands to less fertile districts in the interior, whither they must still more slumber in their barbarism, or continue in their savage state, or entirely succumb. The fate of so many aboriginal races of men which have already been obliterated from the world's history; the repetition of the rapid disappearance of the whole Indian race of America, before the spread of European

colonization, as also of the Aborigines of New Holland, there, in parts, even systematically rooted out, threatens equally their brother-race in New Zealand, by means of the still more rapid progress of civilization on their insular territory.

Such was, generally, until lately, such is, partly, also still, the condition of human life on an island no less beautiful in aspect than richly endowed, converted into an arena of the most fearful degeneracy of passion, by men of the coarser, equally with the finer kind, both of whom, though from opposite extremes, must be ranked as savages. Was it conceivable that the natural consequences of that frightful process could be fully averted from the scene of its occurrence, by means of a benevolent society of civilized individuals? Yet has this happened in our days, for with a certain predilection the British public has identified itself with the undertaking.

The excess of the disorder has, in truth, reached its term: it must now call forth the antitheses of legal order. Dark, insidious delinquency must thus be drawn from its concealment and dishonest subterfuge detected. With the increased influx of visitors, the eyes of intelligence, honesty and benevolence will more and more be opened. The generally aroused sympathy of the organizing authorities in the fate of the aboriginal race, and against the injustice done to them on all sides by the civilized population, has led to associations for their welfare; as witness the Aboriginal Protection Society in London. It aroused likewise the guardian providence of individuals, no less than of the Government, on behalf of the New Zealanders. And even herein is seen, as it seems to us, a gratifying progress of the spirit of the times, the development of which, notwithstanding the many

retrogradations experienced in separate instances, yet in the great and whole, for the general welfare of mankind, strides conspicuously forward.

Also, the Missions of Christianity, sending forth their teachers to New Zealand, have operated a commencement of that salutary progress. Through vigorously prosecuted measures, they have acquired within the lapse of scarcely ten years, an influence so gentle over the minds of the natives in the various settlements of at least the remote part of the Northern island, as to have rendered these a striking marvel of our times; for they have induced them, not only entirely to abstain from cannibalism, but have imbued them with peaceful, sociable habits; features, moreover, which are becoming by degrees durably implanted amongst the contemporary tribes in the Southern part of the Island, extending downwards to Cook's Straits.

It was the coloured people who now, happily, from the operation of a regulated married life, resigned themselves, of their own impulse, to a higher discipline and religious order; who, likewise regularly assembled their families in their own huts with songs of praise (for, like their forest birds, they have melodious voices, and possess a musical taste) in honour of the High *Atua*, and also in meeting houses of their own erection, in celebration of the Sabbath; and all this mainly brought about by the zeal of their own coloured brethren who have become Christian missionaries; thus affording satisfactory evidence of the Christian elements having taken firm root amongst them. Nay, remarkable certainly it is, that generally the Aborigines, both young and old, evince at the same time a strong impulse for, and aptitude in acquiring, school-instruction in reading,

writing, and other branches of knowledge; a spirit which so awakened would, it may be inferred, continue to animate them even without the continuance of European influence, from family to family, and from race to race. Further, as the fruit of all this, is to be reckoned a surprisingly quick and ready deference and inclination, not merely towards their teachers, but also, in consequence of their keen perception of a higher moral standard, towards the Whites generally, whom they designate by the name of *Pakeha*.

The increased European insight into the rich character, and the peculiar worldly position of this island, as even this budding development adduced, together with the interesting, evinced susceptibility, no less than the spiritual nature of its Aborigines, wherewith the mild disposition and steady affection of the women, is especially to be considered, already demonstrates that its inclusion within the system of the universe, and in the course of the development of the human race, involves manifestly a different, a higher consideration than that of a mere waste, detached island, the abode of wild multitudes, an ungoverned territory, the scene of conflict between barbarous crudity and shameless delinquency, in contact with civilization, but withal, in disunity with the rest of the world.

The intelligent, matured view of the world's present intercourse, now soaring on eagle-wings around it, with the quickness of thought, shows that the island of New Zealand already forms one of the most precious pearls on the string of commercial stations matured around the great terrestrial circle, through the medium of the ocean. If, then, it were inhabited by an intelligent agricultural, commercial,

sea-faring community, whose welfare had for its bases British laws, European morality, and the Christian Church, and the Aborigines of its soil were in nowise excluded from the fraternal chain of the great human family, but were elevated in the scale of humanity, by an enlightened tutelage;—it might thenceforth be expected to become both morally and physically powerful.

By such process an island-organismus so spiritual, endowed with full human vigour in social, political, religious, and worldly intercourse, must occupy the position of a necessary, nay an inalienable member in the system of the historic development of the Universe, and go on from century to century, improving towards maturity. Through the medium of a regular post-communication, like that afforded by the great steam-navigation of the present day, yon far distant ocean-isle must more and more approximate, in capacious relation, to European civilization:—and, brought within sure and easy reach, by an unbroken line of connection, must practically acquire the position of a contiguous European island. Thus, it would no longer lie out of the track of the great world's intercourse, but become the grand *centrum* of the antipodean zone, as the directest course in the great highway from continent to continent, and consequently aid in blending as a whole the entire circumference.

But much of what has here been only indicated as possible, has already been projected in the course of the past year, and is now brought into actual existence. The young colonization of New Zealand was truly established in accordance with the principles of a humane system. In pursuance thereof, the British Crown formally took sovereign possession of the ter-

ritory. New Zealand was incorporated in the State of Great Britain. As sovereign power, and as first discoverer, the Crown proclaimed that double-island as its colony, (May 1840.) It introduced there British law and the British constitution. The Church consecrated the first Bishop of the Island, as superior of the Christian Congregation (in the autumn of 1841), and, for all that related to this charge, laid the foundation of its highest spiritual welfare. From the western harbours of England and Europe, through the middle of the Atlantic ocean, direct to the narrow neck of land in Central America,—the isthmus of Panama,—the post communication was actually established by means of a regular line of steam-ships. These mails, being landed at Porto Bello, on the River Chagres, are thence conveyed by couriers overland to Panama; while not less regularly, since the middle of last year, has the communication with New Zealand been effected, by means of swift sailing-packets from the harbour of Panama, on the west coast of Darien, which vessels, after traversing Cook's Strait, proceed on to the Australian colonies. This service will also eventually be performed by steam-navigation. By the route described, the regular voyage from London to the Colonial City of Wellington, in Port Nicholson, will be reduced to about seventy days; the previous route requiring from 160 to 180* days to reach the Island. The apparently most distant Colony of the antipodes, is thus, with reference to time, brought nearly one-third nearer to

* This, though sometimes occurring, is rather an extreme case: the average voyage occupies about four months, or 120 days; but instances are not wanting of the New Zealand Company's well-appointed ships having performed it under one hundred days.—*Translator.*

the parent-state England, and to the entire civilization of Western Europe. From thence, through India, are similar regular communications to and from Australasia. But the circumstance of Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay having been brought into near communication with Europe by way of the African isthmus of Suez,—thus destined to play a similar rôle to its sister of Panama, in the world's intercourse,—and by means of steam navigation from Alexandria to Malta, Gibraltar, and so onwards, has long been generally known.

Thus begins then, for New Zealand, with these remarkable coincidences of the past year, an entirely new epoch in its history. Already had this vast improvement of the future been foretold by the German naturalist, George Forster, the companion of Cook, and joint discoverer with him of the double-island. When, on the occasion of the second circumnavigation of the globe (1773), he was compelled to take leave of this barely discovered spot, he inscribed in his journal, in prophetic spirit, the following remarkable words :—(vol. i. p. 394.)

“ Perhaps, at some future day, Europeans, having lost their American Colonies, may contemplate forming fresh settlements in far distant lands : may the spirit of the former discoverer only then not slumber over them ! May they regard the native inhabitants of the South Sea Islands as their brethren, and prove to contemporaries that colonies may be founded without staining their soil with the blood of innocent nations ! ”

That time is now actually arrived. Now is it intelligible what a colonization like that adduced, may acquire as an indication for the future !—nay, what, without having reached its climax, it may accumulate

for the ensuing generation, through the re-acting strength of its ideas! And how peculiar must the formation be in a country with such a former history—that has participated in none of those blessings which we, in our uninterrupted possession, have often unconsciously and quite tacitly enjoyed! For, amongst its phases were none of the blessings of human social life, neither of civilization, nor of law, the church, hereditary dominion, the patriotic remembrance of a national past, or the more cosmopolitan one of the blended fraternal and spiritual world! For the right appreciation of this peculiarity of the colonization, there are yet to be considered some characteristic features of the soil to which it appertains; as affecting the natural and human organized existence it has assumed, and the principle within which its elements must revolve.

The wildly rugged, yet majestic, coast-rich, natural features of the double-island, such as Cook discovered, and for the first time, circumnavigated it, after a tedious effort of six months' duration, have not, in any respect since changed their character. On the east side, four or five mountain ranges rising in succession one behind the other, and surmounted in the back-ground by stupendous snow-capped peaks, formed, on the first aspect, in the sea-distance, a surprising picture. Thick, along the coast, were every where found evidences of strong volcanic formation, steep headlands, wide isthmuses, projecting rocks, yawning caverns opened by the action of the waves, lovely bush-covered islands ranging in unbounded variety from inlet to inlet, and from bay to bay. Within its inner half circle were only narrow naked ranges of sea-shore and sterile plains; but in the back ground stretched the rising base of the

mountains and capes, covered with dark green primæval forests, yet untouched by the axe of man.

But their own great age and the force of tempests had everywhere brought down numerous giant trunks, from which, imbedded in the soil, time had produced a young light green race of foreign sprouts, and these entangled with brushwood and circling plants, with moss, with fern, and with lichen, formed one wild, impenetrable mass of net-work. But nowhere was there cultivation—everywhere a desert. Conjecture as to inhabitants was alone permitted by the appearance on the forest verge, of heaps of broken stones piled in rude pillar-shape;* though on the beach a few reed-built huts gave evidence of human life, as also single canoes, paddled across the bays by dark athletic men, who, when they were approached nearer, swung their clubs and spears above their heads, with wild and threatening gestures.

The spot where he and his companions first landed, Cook designated by the name of Poverty Bay, to mark the impression which its desolate appearance produced upon him; though the first forest which it was there vainly sought to thread, exhibited to his companion, Sir Joseph Banks, the naturalist, a vegetable kingdom of twenty different kinds of trees, whereof none was until then known to him. The north shore of the island exhibited more variety, greater softness, and greater richness in its deeply indented bays, the recipients of the waters of navigable streams penetrating numerous valleys. The larger fertile plains were inhabited by numerous

* According to concurrent testimony, the natives are to this day in the habit of thus piling up the stones which plentifully strew the ground in various places, as remnants of the volcanic operations which have occurred.—*Translator.*

Aborigines, who cultivated their native sweet potato, and, on being visited, received the strangers with a less threatening demeanour than those first spoken of, so that here at least the discovered land was not, as on the east coast, stained with blood.

Cook named this district the Bay of Plenty. Here were seen larger and skilfully carved canoes, very large fishing-nets, made from the native flax, much exceeding in size those used in Europe, and generally a higher degree of prosperity amongst the natives, these being also of a finer appearance. In this mildest, warmest part of the island, with an Italian, only moister climate, the vine-plant thither transplanted already produces delicious grapes, and the native wild peach-tree, the richest fruit. The melon and the fig readily ripen there; and judging from experiments hitherto made, the orange might likewise be produced. All European fruits and cereals, as barley, wheat, thrive pre-eminently; many vegetables, and especially the potato, which has spread itself from hence, with astonishing rapidity, along the whole line of coast.

All these are gifts which emigration has introduced: for, in the time of the discoverer, a few kinds of roots alone constituted, even in this mildest island, the scanty vegetable nourishment of the Aborigines, amongst which the bottle-gourd (*Flaschenkürbis*) and the sweet-potato (*Convolvulus batatus*), by some, although rudely cultivated, and the everywhere abundant wild-fern (*Acrostichum furcatum*) of fibrous, sweet, but little-nourishing qualities, formed the most important. The excessive richness of the coast fisheries, and the forest birds must, however, amply have supplied the place of the many vegetable kinds of

nourishment, the production of which had been denied to the soil by its peculiar vegetation.

Such, along the northern coasts, besides the Bay of Plenty, also appeared to the discoverers, the country around the contiguous harbours, and the island-rich gulf, with the many navigable streams flowing into it from the interior, and to which, from the lovely rich meadow-land bordering its shores, the appellation of the Thames was given. Such is the Bay of Islands, with its half-dozen excellent harbours, the radii of whose position have not been unaptly likened to the extended thumb and fingers of the hand. In all these configurations, the volcanic formation of Norway (as at Bergen and Christiana) and of Scotland (so celebrated on the Tay, and the Clyde near Edinburgh and Glasgow respectively) is undistinguishable.

Here, in this most genial section of the double-island, have its sons of nature, the Aborigines evinced the most gifted susceptibility for European assimilation. The younger generation there has, in fact, abnegated its cruelty and forsworn its revenge, because the provocatives for the exercise of these are wasted. But they have the consciousness of their substantiality, and retain unimpaired their national feelings of honour. They go dressed like the Europeans, and regulate their fashions correspondingly. In agricultural and garden culture, in the practice of felling trees, sawing, floating raft-timber, erecting mills, ship-carpentry, navigation, marketing, trade and barter, they are already become their very apt pupils. But their chiefs have as yet by no means abandoned their hereditary dignity. The natives are naturally laborious; the hospitable reception and

entertainment of strangers is one of their distinguishing traits, and they are now become peacefully disposed. Personal offences alone arouse still, as formerly, their wild passions ; but as it is their custom to exact *Utu*, meaning payment for injury, to which compromise the European, in order to allay their fierce resentment, readily accedes, by the cheap present of a piece of stuff, or a few cigars, disputes from this source are not of frequent occurrence. The solemn pathos they exhibit in public transactions, their taste for social intercourse, their joyous burlesque humour, their natural wit, their predilection for potatoes, their passion for tobacco-smoking, to enjoy which they make any sacrifice, their indifference to convenience, as against wind and weather, their deep, tenacious religious spirit, readily mounting to enthusiasm ; all these qualities have led to their being repeatedly likened by the English and the Scotch to their own native neighbours the Irish ; not, however, the less recognizing in them one of the most gifted aboriginal races in the universe.

Their women, on whom devolves almost all labour, are, by the dominant attraction of their earnest disposition, the truest wives, and the most tender careful mothers for the welfare of their offspring. They dissolve in tears, and gash their flesh with muscle-shells, until the blood flows freely from the wounds, in the excess of their grief at the loss of one whom they have loved. The great national superiority over Europeans, which both sexes have hitherto almost generally preserved, consists in the natural aversion they entertain to the use of ardent spirits.

It is in this Northern Section of the Island, where

the precepts of the Christian teachers of the Protestant Missions, and their exemplary course of life, have found an almost general introduction, and ready imitation, and whence they have become extended through the Northern tribes to their Southern brethren, down to Cook's Strait, attended almost uniformly with a humanizing development. In a future religious history of New Zealand the Shores of Thames Bay, the head-quarters of the Missionaries, will appear, as the scene of the first rising of the morning dawn, an important spot; even as of old, appeared on German soil the cleared forest glades of Buchan, in the days of Bonifacius. Whilst in other sections of the Island, mostly entrenched by ridges of rock, appear scattered villages, perched on elevated sites, here, on the contrary, are numerous peaceful settled villages, embracing within their enclosure, schools conducted by coloured teachers, corn lands, potato fields, maize plantations, and garden grounds, interspersed with clean neat huts, the whole, in flourishing cultivation, presenting a park-like aspect amid the forest openings. From hence, have many Aborigines wandered forth with their staff, in aid of their brother Missionaries, for the conversion and civilization of their yet, in many respects, savage countrymen in the Southern districts; nor this unattended with a good result. At the Bay of Islands,—which, on account of its rich clustering havens, was formerly the favoured emporium of industry, commerce, business and navigation, whither hundreds of ships annually resorted, and a not inconsiderable number of trading vessels of various tonnage, from the ports of the South Sea, from North America and Great Britain always lay at anchor,—was laid in the course of last

year, the foundation-stone of the town of Russell, destined as the seat of the British local Government*. No one, however, of the other coasts of the island equals this North end in the progress of this kind of civilization, although, also, as already stated, the shady sides are not wanting.

The entire west side of the island, is a monotonous line of coast, and on account of the prevalence of westerly winds, as yet little visited ; but in its centre, trending towards the funnel-shaped entrance to Cook's Strait, the high pyramid of Mount Egmont rises like another Peak of Teneriffe, full ten thousand feet above the level of the sea, and serving, consequently, as a conspicuous land-mark for ships navigating thitherwards from the west. Its bold, snow-covered crest, ever shrouded in mist, has already served as a beacon to numerous Colonists : for at its wide Northern base, rich in fine undulating meadowland, the youngest Colonial City, named New Plymouth, after its elder British sister, has been established. Its base on the South-west, extends down to the inner channel of Cook's Strait, within which, its opposite shores amply provided by nature with the most excellent shipping stations and havens, the London Company, as already stated, has chosen the site of the chief Colonial City, Wellington.

Within this volcanic kind of dissection of the island, the channel of which forms a complete navigable connecting sea-branch, from twenty to thirty German miles long from west to east, and from ten to five in breadth from north to south, lies that splendid concentrated mass of haven richness, lately become of inestimable value as the centre of settle-

* This intention however has not taken effect.—*Translator.*

ment, and its concomitant activity, on the grandest scale.

Here, amid these varied havens, tarried long at frequent intervals, the first discoverer, forasmuch as he here found collected all that was requisite for the recreation and invigoration of his ship's company: protection against tempests, excellent anchorage, exhaustless abundance of superior timber for masts and ship purposes, fresh salubrious water, delicious fish in plenty, potatoes, and wholesome wild, anti-scorbutic herbs, cress, celery, spoon-wort; and, although occasionally a little wind agitated,—an atmosphere so genial and salubrious, that the crew then exhausted through fatigue and sickness while within the tropics, speedily regained the strength with which they had left their native shores, and like renovated beings, were enabled to set out again to encounter the hardships which awaited them in the Antarctic regions.

Fully answering to such description were found Tasman's Gulf,* (Blind Bay,) Queen Charlotte's Sound, Admiralty Bay, Ship's Cove, and many other places in this glittering row of stations, of which, however, those only on the north-eastern outlet particularly Cloudy Bay, were made use of on this occasion. But the progress of discovery in our days, proves that the southern coast of the opposite northern lying shore, contains a similar natural treasure, which to a maritime nation must be regarded as the highest condition of a country's value. Hence, it is here, at Port Nicholson, where the new colonial city Wellington, has been laid out, as the future centre of the

* The site lately selected for the Nelson settlement of the New Zealand Company.—*Translator*.

great commercial traffic which may be anticipated, and as the first sea-port of the New Colonial States.*

From the shores of Cook's Strait, southwards, the middle island stretches a hundred German miles further down towards the Polar side of the earth, with still bolder, continuous mountain chains, extending lengthwise through its entire centre. Snow-covered plains decorate the detached giant peaks which project from out the long-drawn rocky ridge. Here, steppes of manifold gradation, sloping on either side towards the rugged coasts, are overspread with the thickest mantle of colossal primæval forests ; a treasure of many millions for future ages, but which, on account of the uncommon acclivities of the formations is difficult of acquisition. In this region, are every where, numerous bays and inlets, but no where wide spreading valleys, though many, but as yet unexplored level districts lie in the interstices of the higher grounds ; the narrow clefts being alike traversed by the waters of roaring mountain-floods, and murmuring water-falls. A stupendous mountain nature of the true Norwegian character, and to which even the Scottish, as well as that so esteemed of Wales and Cumberland must yield, is here predominant. But still the extreme southern end of this island has the superiority of a very mild south of England climate, where, though rain, clouds, and tempests fail not, yet the snow in severest winter, only seldom remains upon the ground beyond a few days ; where the constant verdure of the forest trees and the myrtle-shrubs enshrouds the landscape in beauty the whole year

* This opinion, as to the great natural advantages of Port Nicholson, is in strict accordance with all concurrent testimony, and is a severe reflection on the strange fatuity which has suggested the placing of the seat of government upon a remote part of the northern island.—*Translator.*

through ; where both maize and potatoes thrive exceedingly.

Here it was that the gentle-minded George Forster, the German naturalist, whilst sojourning months along with Cook, in the wild romantic region of Dusky Bay, was forcibly reminded of the Salvator Rosa artist-style of scenery. Man and cattle-herds were wanting to this repelling sombre monotony ; but the melodious warbling at day-break of numerous forest birds, brought back to him the sound of European nature ; the fluttering of the parrot-tribe at mid-day, in the shady arched foliage of such lovely forests, transported him to the sub-tropical regions of the earth ; but the naked cliffs of the sea-bay, whereon, at twilight, groups of fat glittering seal-calves congregated like a Proteus shoal for the night, proved to him that he was truly within the expanse of the Antarctic neighbourhood.

Thus, speaking generally, the large middle island, from its predominating Alpine character, and rich coast development, will never be transformed into an agricultural soil.* Nevertheless, as already mentioned, it is not wholly devoid,—frequently sporadically distributed between the mountain gaps,—of uncommonly fertile districts well adapted for agricultural purposes, though in nowise forming, as for instance, in the west of England, a dominant connected series of wide plains requisite for a corn-growing country. In proportionately narrow intervals, the country on either side of the central mountain ridge, declines equally towards the sea, whereby the

* According to authentic accounts, however, parts of it are eminently adapted with the progress of settlement, for a grazing country, and in the vicinity of Cook's Strait in particular, rich pasture land abounds.—*Translator*.

dissevered coast configuration is brought by an extraordinary expansion into immediate contact with the mountain-lands. This volcanic rich coast, with its fish and forest plenty, affords the ready indication of a predominant maritime colonization, which must proceed from numerous specially favoured localities, and can thence extend itself only gradually into the interior. Thus, formerly, was colonized by the Hellenic race, from the coast upwards, as the celebrated names of the maritime cities shew,—none of those in the interior equalling them in renown,—the southern end of Italy and Sicily (Magna Græcia). But the rich water abundance of New Zealand, although no great river (to which, generally, the civilization of internal landed districts is at first indebted) penetrates its larger plains, renders it conspicuously analogous to long-stretching Norway, only with the advantage of a twofold superiority of coast, both on the east side and the west. And to this be added the weighty consideration of a milder climatrical position. Nor are the productions of each by any means so dissimilar as might be expected for opposite hemispheres.

The mineral treasures of New Zealand have not yet been determined, because its mountain-land remains unexplored; and hitherto each kind of metal has been supplied to it from without: but its coal-formation which has lately been first opened on the south-west coast, bids fair to create a New Zealand Newcastle with its thriving industry.

On the part of *Fauna*, however, this country has been treated only in step-mother fashion; no wild beast of prey, certainly, but also no single kind of the larger tribe of quadrupeds, is here indigenous: the wild swine only of the marshy coast, and the social dog, which, in every desert, has accompanied

man, give to the New Zealander, besides rats and mice (introduced as he alleges, with European emigration) his scanty nourishment of animal food. Whether, forsooth, any of the chamois or the llama tribe are to be found on the summits of the high barren mountains, is a question which time must reveal.

In this land of vegetable variety, there is wanting every kind of grazing flocks; and all domestic cattle, as goats, sheep, horned-kine, and horses, have been a gift to its cultivable world. Cook made the first endeavours to introduce there these domestic necessities of a civilized people; the goats seem to have thriven best, and have already greatly multiplied.

In the blessings of extensive flocks and herds, as in rich pasture lands, New Zealand must for a long time—indeed everlastingly—remain behind its neighbour Australia, as with few exceptions, nature has denied to its soil almost all the grass-kinds which constitute the primary condition of herd-grazing life.* The fine, nourishing, milk-yielding, condensed grass-kinds, forming the soft adornment of European plains, and rendering, like Swiss meadows rife with fragrance, the mountains of the Upper Alps so attractive, and through sinewy labour, so habitable to man, are altogether wanting in New Zealand. In the depths of the interior, they are supplanted by bushy, dry, coarse-stemmed fern roots, or by tough fibrous reed-plants, amongst which, most commonly, the New Zealand flax, *phormium tenax*, so celebrated for its strength and flexibility, is found in abundance on all the coast-lands and plains. Only where cultivation, or forest conflagration, by manure or ashes, has first transformed the earth's surface, can artificial meadows and hay be insured by

* See note ante, page 39.

sowing. The Idyllic pastoral life was therefore denied to the New Zealander, equally with the hunter-life of other races, who, in combating with the larger beasts of prey,—with lions in the tropical, with bears in the polar world,—gave exercise to the development of their bodily energies. Thence perhaps is it here, that man, in the worst grade of passion, directed even these in the bloodiest way against his fellow-being; but to the honour of human nature he has evinced that he could be as quickly reclaimed from such cannibalism, in proportion as ways for the application of his vigour and mental interests were laid open to him. Also, was the New Zealander a stranger to the forest-life, since the axe and iron were not amongst his gifts. Only in the murderous war of brethren,—in a fishing, sea, and family-life, revolved hitherto the whole existence of one of the most gifted aboriginal races of the earth.

Should not then the colonization of New Zealand, if considered, as generally it was, an urgent necessity of the condition of the British population, in its high cultivated native territory, be also at the same time regarded as one no less imperative for the welfare and improvement of the aboriginal race! After Cook's discovery, there was no longer the distinction of a separate native territory! It happened, therefore, that here, as every where else around the earth's compass, European civilization, in conflict with a country which offers its natural treasures, and requires many benefits in return, and with a people (consisting of about 100,000 individuals),* must, through the power of tradition, and the activity of time, be drawn on with it, to a new historic life, in which the old race must become elevated or expire.

* According to a return lately received by the New Zealand Company, the number is about 107,000.

In this struggle, yet certainly going on, we now see before our eyes, the fate of New Zealand entirely, with the most rapid development, transformed.

And now a few observations in reference to the manner in which has aided in such transformation the particular colonization, of the brilliant results of which, equally with its first progress, we have already spoken, in the commencement of our investigation. Only in two places, and within the last two years, has this colonization system been in operation, namely, at Wellington, in Port Nicholson, and at New Plymouth, at the foot of Mount Egmont. We have described the characteristics of their position. The establishment of the third colony, Nelson, is in growth, its locality however as yet unknown; as its selection will only have been determined on in the course of the present New Zealand summer, by the Company's officers on the spot.* Since the year 1825, New Zealand, as a new rich field for relieving the necessities of the superabundant population of Great Britain, has attracted the most general observation. From that period, there has been a conflicting variety of projects, debates, and plans, on the part both of private individuals and the government, with the view to bestow upon that island-land the benefits of law, the new principle of the Australian colonization, but devoid of its evil influences as regards the Aborigines, and to put an end to the corruption of the life of vagabondism there prevalent. But three different Associations were necessitated, from want of means, difference of principles, and the difficulty of ade-

* Very late accounts from New Zealand represent it as having been established at Tasman's Gulf, on the south-west shore of Cook's strait—one of those places of which the author has given an account so promising. See *ante*, p. 37.—*Translator*.

quately discharging individually a responsibility so weighty, to merge eventually in one another, until it appertained to that last formed, to conduct and to accomplish on the largest scale, through a complete reorganization, what on a smaller one appeared impracticable.

There was an union formed of men of high station, who, with only private means—without any assistance from the Government, but with a deep practical discernment—of manifold experience, and with large resources; were animated by a humane desire to ameliorate the condition no less of their necessitous fellow-countrymen than of the Aborigines of the far ocean-island, and with whom the accomplishment of this object lay at heart. To their superior perception in the praxis of the world's intercourse—divested of motives of low avarice, but with a legitimate spirit of speculation,—the period seemed to have arrived for accumulating a treasure for the benefit of themselves and others: nor were they mistaken. A capital of 100,000*l.* was considered by these Directors as sufficient for the realization of their great objects. This amount was raised in the course of a few days, in four thousand shares of 25*l.* each; and, shortly afterwards, a ship with the first agents of the Company for effecting the proposed land purchases, was despatched to New Zealand. But not, as formerly, to traffic at chance and overreachingly with the Aborigines, but to select with circumspection, and to acquire the best tracts of land at a liberal price, and in a just and valid manner; thus at the same time driving from the field of operations, those numerous land swindlers who sought to obtain the same gratuitously. On this occasion, goods to the value of about 10,000*l.* were appro-

priated to the proposed purchase. In the large tract of land to be so acquired, the choicest spot on its water frontage was to be immediately assigned as the site of a large commercial capital, and adapted accordingly. Every former colonization had always pretty well proved a retrogradation from a better to a worse and more uncomfortable condition; whereas, this on the contrary was destined to be a progression, and at the same time, yet in a measure of spiritual development, to transfer all advantages of the home civilization to the new settlement.—Already the realization of this high conception which aroused the confidence and induced the unlimited participation of the British public in the enterprise, secured thereby not only the outlaid capital, but led in a short time to a not inconsiderable profit on the re-sale of the land allotments. On either side of Cook's Strait large districts (to the extent in all of 1,500 geographical square miles) were acquired in the way mentioned, but properly, only one-tenth part (namely the coast tract of the northern island), or 150 geographical square miles, was taken possession of by the Company, the legitimacy of whose claim thereto was subsequently recognized and insured by the Crown.

The chiefs of the Aboriginal tribes, there very thinly scattered, received for the ceded territory an equivalent in goods, fire-arms and money, the value of which was by no means unknown to them; though of the territorial value of their superfluity of wastes, and unused possessions, they could as yet have no accurate conception, since this could obviously be only of a contingent nature, accruing through the progress of the settlement. The most excellent of the harbours thereabouts, Port Nicholson, was discovered, uniting in itself all that was desirable for the proposed loca-

tion ; as, ample size, shelter against storms from whatsoever quarter, safe entrance, natural fortification, convenient sloping-ground for the site of the town, Wellington, fertile garden and cultivable land of a sufficient circumference, traversed by a navigable stream, with a wide outlet into the harbour ; and lastly, abundance of rich forest timber, adapted whether for ship or house-building ; the whole of these great natural advantages moreover, being placed in the heart of the great thoroughfare between the outer sea of the Southern ocean, and the inner one of the Australasian Colonies. A certain number of acres (1100) was allotted for the erection of the city in the noblest style of the parent state, and a still greater number of acres (110,000 equivalent to nearly eight German square miles) as garden or suburban sections for the inhabitants. Both were sold in conjoint allotments in each case of equal dimensions at a stipulated price, viz. : one English acre to the 1*l*. sterling. All the sections were forthwith marked out by competent surveyors, and plans thereof prepared for the public information. The judiciously designed ground-plan of the city, comprehended streets, market places, quays, fountains, canals, park-enclosures, ship-wharves, and sites for churches, schools and other public edifices ; all which appropriations were gratuitously ceded by the Company, in accordance with its liberal principles, for the common benefit of the Colony.

Through the conformableness of these arrangements, all possible advantages were insured to the new dwelling-place, which now consequently began to draw to itself, in considerable numbers, not merely the poor, but the richer sort of settlers, so that the value of the ground-lots of the whole settlement, rose

higher and higher in the most rapid progression. The number of poor or unprovided settlers, namely, the purely labouring class, must, it was now certain, speedily follow the capitalist, or employing class in still greater numbers ; because it was precisely through the operation of the labour of the former class, that the landed property of the latter must maintain its rising value. This fresh aftergrowth of the Colony the Company yet more fully assured by its prudent moderation in the earliest direct participation which it took in the mercantile profit of the speculation ; that is to say, it contented itself with a reservation of 25 per cent. on the sale price of its lands, appropriating the remaining 75 per cent. of such price wholly and exclusively to the benefit of the Colony ; namely, in procuring young labouring settlers of both sexes, and in shipping them free of expense to themselves to their destination ; and in making provision for the establishment of institutions of various kinds ; so as by these two-fold objects, not merely to supply the bodily and material wants of the young multitudes, but also the means of furthering their higher spiritual welfare.

Never, for a settlement of this kind, has such wise and generous care been taken by a business association, and never probably has a commercial company drawn, notwithstanding, so large a benefit from its outlay.

Through its instrumentality, corn-stores, warehouses, a bank, inns, have been erected at the settlement. A *New Zealand Gazette* was established ; and premiums for the promotion of the infant industry, more especially for the invention of an improved method of dressing the native flax, by machinery, were freely offered. Through it also instructional

institutions, a school for land-surveying, a preparatory seminary for colonists' sons, destined for colonial life, and many other arrangements of a similar enlightened kind, are to be practically carried out. The colonized portion of New Zealand becoming in effect by such means a resembling portion of Old England, will in all things become placed on an equality, nay, still higher raised; for there at least the galling contrasts of excessive riches and anguish-stricken pauperism, as in the parent-country, will be swept away; nor could the extremes there generate the same pernicious consequences; many of the existing evils of the British state being thence pre-organized. The whole project was arithmetically and statistically calculated on such warning *data*, so as to give the preponderance in the social equilibrium on the virgin soil, to the middle and productive classes. As already in the succeeding year, it was deemed expedient to establish a second colonial settlement, namely Nelson, on the same principle as the first, full 60,000*l.* of the purchase-money of the allotments were applied to the higher objects of the same: that is to say, 15,000*l.* for the building of churches, schools, and for religious objects; 15,000*l.* for the establishment of a New Zealand University; and 20,000*l.* for the promotion of steam-communication, which, while preserving between Europe and New Zealand an unbroken chain of connection, should benefit the whole Australasian world; and should maintain the intercourse with the continent of South America, already in its beginning at Valparaiso and Chili.

In refutation of the many insinuations and suspicions which here, as in every case where the work of improvement is attempted, were industriously propagated, the New Zealand Company gave striking

proof that it was in nowise animated, in order to insure to itself exclusive benefits of gain, by a spirit of jealousy at contemporary efforts to aid in the furtherance of the true, humane system of colonization it had introduced. On the contrary, it had only been desirous to make smooth the path of improvement. It incited, therefore, many others to similar objects, and succeeding associations formed themselves as filial institutions, on similar principles, in accordance with its example. The most considerable of these, the Plymouth Company, merits here at least to be mentioned, because, with greater means, it resolved to establish a yet larger colonial city, for the especial benefit of the emigrating population of the crowded west of England, and carried this resolution into effect.* Animated by a noble national desire to promote the bodily as well as the spiritual welfare of the emigrating members of the community, this Company had manifested almost still greater care for their future advantage. Its undertaking, therefore, as striving at the same high line of action as its own, was met by the New Zealand Company with open arms.†

As, lastly, also, the activity of a special, new religious missionary society formed at Glasgow, for the benefit of the New Zealand Christian community, put prominently forward, as of extreme urgency for the rapidly increasing colony the foundation of a bishopric on the double-island, the New Zealand Company was immediately ready, in accordance with its governing principle, to contribute from its means an ample endowment for such object. We were present, in October last, at the consecration of the

* This Company has since been incorporated by merger in the New Zealand Company.—*Translator.*

† See ante, page 36.

reverend ecclesiastic appointed to this office, who, as shepherd of a flock yet unknown to him, has, with great self-denial, already departed on his mission.

But it is not necessary further to dilate on the speciality of all the arrangements, and the interesting history of the young colonization. From what precedes, the spirit in which it was undertaken manifests itself with sufficient clearness, and which, also, has crowned its efforts with the happiest evidences of success.

As amongst the most brilliant, must truly be regarded its justification by the Government; since by its progress, was the British Crown first determined to validate its supremacy in New Zealand, to proclaim the double-island a British colony, and to take the whole of its inhabitants under protection, in the character of British subjects. Hereby, likewise, the fate of the Aborigines became insured, at least partly, against that former infamy of vagabond life, as equally against that excessive rapacity, and nefarious imposition, conjointly practised in reference to their morality, their property, and their existence. Those former territorial cessions, extorted by unprincipled adventurers, whether forcibly, or by unrighteous means, or, to speak more plainly, that despoliation of the non-aged Aboriginal race so manifestly prevalent, were not recognized by the Crown as the private property of the claimants. But, whether on the other hand, these Aborigines, by reason of the large wealth which certainly has already accrued to them from means of all kinds resulting from their contact with the Europeans, would therefore, and in consequence of the protection extended to them, have a happy future to place in the balance, is quite another question. According to the state-

ments of the New Zealand Bank, established at Wellington, and already made use of by the Aborigines, it appears that these already possess amongst them a money-capital of about 150,000*l*. For, in the pursuit of industry and commerce those amongst them thereto trained already emulate their masters. But though, forsooth, many vain sons of the proud chiefs be wont on the occasion of their visits on board European ships, to rattle gold pieces in their pockets, it thence by no means follows that their princes are rich. Most of them, in fact, as yet, set no value upon property of which they know not how to make a profitable immediate use. Hence they have usually distributed amongst the members of their families, their inferiors and their slaves, the articles received in barter for their land, retaining but little for themselves after satisfaction. In this respect, a great change in their condition must unquestionably ere long take place. In proportion as civilization inducts them more and more in the appreciation of the luxuries of social life, so will it imbue them with an increased desire for riches.

Formerly, their fisheries, their potato-grounds, their exhaustless supply of the fern-plant root, the domestic use of their plentiful wild flax, and their *Pätupātu*, that is, their battle-axe, or tomahawk, rendered them independent of every foreigner. But in a measure, they are already become the slaves of wants which their ancestors knew not. They must have powder, lead, muskets, and tobacco, which, even their women, as also their children from earliest infancy, are wont to smoke. In addition to these, they require knives, hatchets, iron-kettles, shirts, pantaloons, coloured stuffs, without the attirement of which several articles of dress, they are, indeed no

longer willing to appear. When, therefore, they cease to be able to acquire such things so readily as heretofore, through the sale of lands, they must of necessity, as now partly happens, be compelled to labour; and hence very generally learn to understand the value of money. Nor does this view of their condition by any means escape their keen penetration: "If things thus proceed," said one of the coloured chiefs, "we shall become the bondsmen of the *Pakeha*, that is, of the whites. We must all become their hewers of wood, and drawers of water." He meant to say that the commerce of the whites had levelled the tree of their native strength at the root; that high and low of the coloured people must all sink to the condition of a race of *Rikha-Rikkas*, namely, slaves. Nevertheless, he was evidently sensible there was no deliverance for them; even driving out and slaying all the whites would help them nothing; for others would always be arriving to supply their place. Another coloured chief observed in yet fewer words: "The end will be, that we chiefs shall yet break up the stones of the road on which the white people stride through our country."

For the preservation of these Aborigines, the New Zealand Company has, from the beginning, considerably exercised, in an especial manner, as far as lay in its power, a protecting guardianship, which might now be transferred over to the higher management and to the wisdom of the supreme Government.

In every instance where a land purchase was effected, the Company, through its agents, dealt with the Aborigines, with their chiefs, their acknowledged princes, or heads of tribes, as with those whom it was necessary to instruct as fully as possible in regard to the advantages and disadvantages of the contract into

which they were about to enter. Thus, confidence was everywhere created ; and, as care was taken in the barter to supply in the most liberal manner, the most desired and useful articles, a predilection towards the Company, was commensurately insured. A complete dispossession of the Aborigines from the ceded lands, appeared neither just nor prudent ; for, in such case, there must have remained to them ultimately only the worst districts of the Island, in which, rendered more compact, and utterly excluded from all humanizing intercourse with the Colonists, they must have become to these only the more dangerous with time, unless decimated by systematic warfare or by grief. The fate of the Indian races, both of North America and Australia, thus treated, (even as wild beasts, no less by the Government than by individuals,) was a fearful discouraging example of such wholesale human degradation, and of the eventual extirpation of whole races of people by the Colonists in self-defence. Hence, a different method was devised for New Zealand. The Company established it as a principle on every land-purchase, uniformly to reserve a full tenth-part of the whole quantity acquired, as an inalienable land-inheritance for the Aborigines represented by their chiefs, to whom at a proper season the same should be delivered over in manorial possession. This appeared to the benevolent projectors to be the only effectual way to preserve the coloured race from the sad fate which it had met with, in contact with civilization in all former British Colonies ; that is, to have become thrust, through the conjoint influences of the spiritual preponderance of civilization, and the greater energy of Europeans, into the lowest rank of the Aboriginal rabble. In contrast with this afflicting, hitherto

almost inevitable fate of an utterly hopeless million of aboriginal people of the wide earth, all sunk in the lowest depths of abasement and debility, it was proposed by the New Zealand Company, in the disinterested, benevolent, in fact, noble manner indicated, to place the condition of the aboriginal race of New Zealand. It was not sought to repel them on account of their barbarism; but, inducted by humanity, to receive them simultaneously into the lap of civilization, and of domestic citizenship; there also to prepare for them, in equal progress with the general development, their future social position.

These reserves of the tenth part of its territorial possessions were assigned by the Company to the charge of an officer of its own, specially appointed for the purpose, as guardian of the Aborigines, and were drawn for, in the best discernment, promiscuously with the allotments of the European settlers, amongst which, consequently, they are interspersed.

As their money-value must rise in equal proportion with that of the rest, it followed that from former valueless, and to them waste-continuing lands, the Aborigines now acquired in full right of ownership, a considerable landed property. In the course of two years (middle of 1841), this property, namely, the tenth part of the 110,000 acres constituting the Port-Nicholson Settlement, had already acquired, at the market price of London, an increased value of 34,000*l.*, which, in equal progression with the growth of the colony, must continue to augment, and might, at no distant period, reach 100,000*l.* Such prospective value, together with the goods and money actually delivered to the Aborigines immediately on the conclusion of the negotiations, was considered by the Company as the proper price of purchase which

should be assigned to them, as the equivalent for their ceded possessions; and also as a compensation for their claims devolved, though unconsciously, yet in effect, to the Crown of England by the Declaration of Sovereignty. This important landed property, which, if at once surrendered to the control of the native chiefs, on behalf of the tribes, would undoubtedly have been immediately alienated by those still thoughtless, ignorant beings, below its actual value, for very trifles, was preserved by a provident foresight, as a means of their future advancement in the path of civilization; and especially for the succeeding generation, prepared for its enjoyment by a greater share of Europeanism and general instruction. By their high susceptibility and mental endowments, no less the women than the men, and the happy development of the qualities of the fine-formed New Zealand youth, the most sanguine hope is to be entertained that the common man, who has already shewn himself so quick and active, will continue as promisingly as he has begun, and materially aid in strengthening, as a labouring class, the lower ranks of the colony. Also the chiefs and princes (to whom, as is known, at present appertains the prerogative of the enforcement of *Tabú*, and the right of life and death over their retainers), amongst whom many estimable characters and mentally gifted individuals already claim regard, will then, in their conjunction with the British gentry, form a wealthy, coloured it is true, but equal-born native upper class of the New Zealand community. This indeed will be a necessary consummation, in order to the advancement and preservation of their present native bondsmen, the coloured fellow labourer of the working class. Their own wealthy endowment will, with time, operate their

affinity with the colonists ; and, if their cultivation be preserved, will transfer them from the raw, compact, threatening mass whereof they form a part, into the circle of civilization, and into the ranks humanely organized for its promotion. May such hopes speedily, under our observation, meet fulfilment !



